GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
FARMERS FACING ECONOMIC RECESSION
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian farmers are reeling under economic recession after the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement;

(b) if so, whether Indian farmers are not getting even remunerative prices of their produce after the WTO agreement;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have conducted any survey of the economic conditions of the Indian farmers during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.264 DUE FOR REPLY ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2002.

(a) to (d): The WTO agreement came into force on 1.1.95.The growth rate of agricultural sector, the annual import of agriculture products, export of agri products, trade balance and terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors since 1990-91 has been as follows:-

Year	Annual Growth rate of GDP at factor cost in Agriculture (at 1993-94 price) %	Agriculture imports (Rs. Crore)	Agriculture export (Rs. Crore)	Agri trade Balance(4-3)	Index of Terms of Trade (ITT)
1990-91	4.43	1205.86	6012.76	4806.9	101.9
1991-92	-1.85	1478.27	7838.13	6359.86	105.6
1992-93	6.22	2876.25	9040.30	6164.05	103.9
1993-94	4.10	2327.33	12586.55	10259.22	103.6
1994-95	5.08	5937.21	13222.76	7285.55	106.6
1995-96	-1.13	5890.10	20397.74	14507.64	105.3
1996-97	10.10	6612.60	24161.29	17548.69	103.1
1997-98	-2.82	8784.19	24843.45	16059.26	105.6
1998-99	6.87	14566.48	25510.64	10944.16	105.2
1999-00	1.04	16066.73	25313.66	9246.93	104.2
2000-01	-0.42-	12086.23	28657.37	16571.14	101.2+
2001-02	5.93	16252.23+	29485.85+	13233.62	NA

- Quick Estimates. Advance Estimates NA − Not Available. + Provisional

As can be seen from the above table, after the WTO Agreement the trend of agricultural growth has not changed significantly. Similarly, the export-import trend in agricultural products has also not shown any material change in the post WTO period at the macro level. Moreover, the terms of trade between agriculture and non-agricultural sector have remained favourable to agriculture during the decade of nineties.

No survey to assess the economic conditions of the farmers has been conducted in the last three years. However, a major study titled, `State of Indian Farmers -A Millennium Study` has been initiated by the Government to assess the impact of various public policies

and other measures on the farmers of the country in last 50 years.